AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A method for preparing a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension; and

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension provides injectability of the composition through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the injection vehicle prior to step (b) is less than about 60 cp at 20°C.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension after step (b) is from about 200 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of microparticles in the first suspension is greater than about 30 mg/ml.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein a viscosity of the viscosity enhancing agent is from about 1000 to about 2000 cp at 20°C.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent comprises sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein a volume of the viscosity enhancing agent mixed with the first suspension is approximately 10-25% of the volume of the first suspension.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising before step (b):

(c) withdrawing the first suspension into a first syringe.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein step (b) comprises:

(i) providing a second syringe containing the viscosity enhancing agent;

(ii) coupling the first syringe to the second syringe so that fluid can pass between the first and second syringes; and

(iii) repeatedly passing the first suspension and the viscosity enhancing agent between the first and second syringes.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder.

Claim 11 (original): A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension;

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C; and

(c) injecting the second suspension into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the microparticles comprise a polymeric binder.

Claim 13 (original): A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a suspension, wherein the injection vehicle has a viscosity at 20°C of less than about 60 cp;

(b) changing the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C;

(c) withdrawing the suspension into a syringe; and

(d) injecting the suspension from the syringe into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) comprises:

changing the temperature of the fluid phase of the suspension.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (b), and step (b) comprises:

adding a viscosity enhancing agent to the suspension in the syringe to thereby increase the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent comprises sodium carboxymethyl cellulose.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the microparticles comprise an active agent.

Claim 18 (original): A method of making a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) providing microparticles comprising a polymeric binder;

(b) providing an injection vehicle having a viscosity of at least 20 cp at 20°C; and

(c) suspending the microparticles in the injection vehicle to form a suspension, wherein the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension is in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension provides injectability of the composition through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein step (c) is performed prior to step (b).

Claim 20 (original): A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 1.

Claim 21 (original): A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

injecting the composition of claim 20 into the host through a needle ranging in diameter from 18-22 gauge.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 20, wherein the microparticles comprise an active agent and a polymeric binder.

Claim 23 (original): The composition of claim 22, wherein the polymeric binder is poly(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) having a molar ratio of lactide to glycolide in the range of from about 85:15 to about 50:50.

Claim 24 (original): The composition of claim 22, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxyrisperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 25 (original): A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 18.

Claim 26 (original): The composition of claim 25, wherein the microparticles further comprise an active agent.

Claim 27 (original): The composition of claim 25, wherein the polymeric binder is poly(d,l-lactide-co-glycolide) having a molar ratio of lactide to glycolide in the range of from about 100:0 to about 50:50.

Claim 28 (original): The composition of claim 26, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxyrisperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 29 (new): A method for preparing a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

(a) mixing dry microparticles with an injection vehicle to form a first suspension; and

(b) mixing the first suspension with a viscosity enhancing agent to form a second suspension, wherein the viscosity enhancing agent increases viscosity of a fluid phase of the second suspension to be in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the second suspension provides injectability of the composition through a needle of medically acceptable size.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 29, wherein an internal diameter of the needle ranges from about 700 to about 400 microns.

Claim 31 (new): A composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host prepared by the method of claim 29.

Claim 32 (new): A method for administering a composition to a host, comprising:

injecting the composition of claim 31 into the host through a needle of medically acceptable size.

Claim 33 (new): A method of making a composition suitable for injection through a needle into a host, comprising:

suspending microparticles comprising a polymeric binder in an injection vehicle having a viscosity of at least 20 cp at 20°C to form a suspension, wherein the viscosity of a fluid phase of the suspension is in the range of from about 20 cp to about 600 cp at 20°C, wherein the viscosity of the fluid phase of the suspension provides injectability of the composition through a needle of medically acceptable size.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 33, wherein an internal diameter of the needle ranges from about 700 to about 400 microns.